

Testimony Submitted by

Captain Len Ditchkofsky

Commanding Officer, Major Crimes Unit

Philadelphia Police Department

Before the

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Judiciary Committee

Meeting at

Philadelphia School of the Future

4021 Parkside Avenue

Philadelphia, PA

Wednesday August 11, 2010 at 10:00 AM

Mister Chairman and members of the Committee: My name is Captain Len Ditchkofsky and I am the Commanding Officer of the Major Crime Unit with the Philadelphia Police Department.

I would like to express my agreement with everything Chief Livingood stated and share with you some facts and figures involving pawn transactions within Philadelphia for the calendar year 2009:

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Pawn Slips:

Approximately 200 per month per shop

Totals 6,200 per month

Totals 74,400 per year

Crimes:

Robbery – 9,037

Stolen value: \$10,131,172

Recovered value: \$3,131,123 (32%)

Burglary – 10,969

Stolen Value: \$30,306,503

Recovered Value: \$1,697,164 (5.6%)

Theft from Auto – 13,520

Stolen Value: \$10,706,368

Recovered Value: \$182,008 (1.7%)

In June of 2010 the Philadelphia City Council approved and passed the Pawn System Ordinance and is now awaiting signature from the Mayor. As Chief Livingood explained this automates the pawn system into a searchable database that will allow Law Enforcement to track stolen property that was turned into pawn shops for quick cash, identify and arrest the perpetrator (minimum charge R.S.P.) and return the property to its rightful owners.

To give an example of the potential this program has we took one (1) month of pawn slips from one (1) location. We then randomly picked two (2) days and fed the information into the program, this resulted in the immediate identification of two (2) individuals who pawned items on multiple occasions during the month.